

4/20/70

Dear Gary,

Read your letter of the 15th this a.m., that to Mary and the one to Paul. I'll read the printed enclosures when I can. It is close to supper time. There is one thing I want to call to your attention, for whatever it may be worth, and I think it may be worth not less than deep thought. How like Lifton you make John sound. And I am not suggesting you are wrong. Of all the things there are for him to do, he has to be going around looking for errors in my work and getting Betzner to talk about them? I do not recall, and I'll not check and I really do not care what I said of B. I am reasonably certain there is no serious error, that none is possible, given the subject matter of which he can be part. It seems to me that all I said, in essence, is that his pictures should have been in evidence, in the files for posterity, should have been studied, and might have disclosed something. And that the entire matter was poorly handled.

What can John be up to? And can we now, with this perhaps inadvertent disclosure, forget what we or at least I once suspected, that he was the source of Lifton's crack quoting him? You may recall, I asked him and he denied it.

However, I do suggest that when you have occasion to mention this or to respond, that you say you know me and my work, that none of us is without the possibility of error, and that you also know if I have made any I seek the opportunity for correcting it, so if he or Betzner think I have made any, you are confident I'd like to know about it so that at some point I can record rectification. Then we'll see what, if anything, he says - and does.

If there is anything material to the case (and the Addison stuff is not) that John has developed, I have yet to learn about it. Much crap, much retreading and too much error, but what the hell has he really done that is new? So, he spends his time going to the Library of Congress to read the works he could have obtained from me and in one case was the first to ever see, and now he is trying to build some kind of miserable business with Betzner. Well, play it cool and maybe we'll get the picture. Meanwhile, he has yet to make any kind of meaningful response to any of the gut letters I have sent him, has ignored most of them, and so far as I am concerned, this is a sufficient record. If he does something bad, I'll cope with that if I can, when it has to be coped with.

What does "brain scan" mean? This is not the EEG, is it? On the first consultation, he made reference to a possible test that posed some kind of unexplained hazard. I asked no questions, for they'd have been premature. I look again and I see this cannot be the EEG.

I've been trying to get along without the valium. I think it helps, but I do not want to use only a crutch. I take it when I feel I should, but I no longer begin the day with a pill. Some days I take none.

Chris: complete waste time. But we should be polite, if he permits. Do not recall about Burkley memo. Sometimes I forget carbons, sometimes I reverse them, and I probably wanted a duplicate to file where I'd want it in writing, not to have to trust my memory...Don't look forward to the Newman book; it can't be good. ...I think you misunderstood Mary on "poor"...Nothing really new on Skolnick...Bad. Saw Time and write them...Read first paragraph of Russell (returned herwith) and regret the fine old man, as his sight failed and he aged, fell into the hands of the left left, who dominated him. 2,000,000 people, a state smaller than Delaware, an "imperial" power? Why does he not start with the beginning, at least the recent one, the Arab refusal to abide by the UN decisions, the endless forays against innocent civilians? Who says the bombings are against civilians or to get them not to support

their government? They are, as announced in advance, the announced retaliation against the declared Nasser policy of a war of attrition. They are to prevent (and bombing does prevent, except in cases of people's wars, which this certainly isn't on the Arab side) the massing of enough force for a real attack. My own view, which is independent of a strong dislike of the Israeli government, is that Israel is the indispensable issue with which all the Arab lands, without exception, divert the people from their own total lack of any progress. They all fear a viable Israel not for religious but for economic reasons, for they fear what this will lead to in popular demands... This is the wrong time to argue whose land it is. It is right now, today, the commemoration of Egypt driving the Jews into where they now are. So, claims to homeland can be made as logically and as reasonably by either side.... It was the Nazi (literally) Grand Mufti who intimidated the Palestinian Arabs to leave their lands, which had never been stolen from them. They killed those who wouldn't, but the Israelis didn't. The Arab refugee issue is contrived to prevent solution short of extermination of Israel. They could all have been absorbed in Arab lands, having left their own either voluntarily or under Mufti threat. However, this also cannot be permitted. Today they control Jordan. Need I tell you there never was such a thing as Jordan until Churchill created it? Is it legal and proper for Jordan and not for Israel?

It is no simple thing, but the underlying reasons are not religious. Truman made it worse by making it a condition of US help (and by leaning on the rich US Jews) that Israel be a US satellite. Terrible mistake, all around.

To make it easier, show me a decent Arab government, a progressive one. Tell me why, with all the starvation, etc. Libya needs 100 modern fighters for which she has no pilots. They talk of "socialism". It is nonexistent in these lands, closest in Algeria. Remember, these are the lands in which slavery is still practised.

I saw the LOOK thing in LOOK. This is an important issue, but it is also being used as a copout issue, to divert the younger people from the underlying political causes are the serious political issues, of which this is not the greatest. Fascism, for example. More power to them. I was working on two books on this when I switched. One might have made a movie.... Nader has been a significant and a good influence. I hope those he has so easily and so well motivate do not stop with this issue.... McConkey: how can it be bad if it is said to be anti-Communist? ... Yes sounds great. Worthwhile. Important. But where are the pregnancies hidden? Or did the pill make them a minor problem?

Best regards,